

JOEL THOMAS.

JANUARY 10, 1832.

Mr. STANBERRY, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Joel Thomas, report:

The petitioner claims a tract of 640 acres of land, on the ground of settlement and cultivation from 1796 to 1807, under an act of Congress of the latter date.

It appears from the evidence, that John Reynolds, under whom the petitioner claims, took possession of the land in 1794 or 1795, made an improvement on it, and continued in possession until 1798 or 1799, about which time he left the Michigan. It also appears, that the petitioner took possession of the land more than twenty-six years ago, and that he has continued in possession ever since, cultivated the same, and claims the same as his own. There is a space of three or four years, from '96 to 1807, when there is no proof that this land was occupied by any person. It was on this ground, principally, that the Committee on Private Land Claims reported against this claim at the first session of the last Congress.

The petitioner has since procured testimony which proves that all the white inhabitants were driven from the land, as well as from the adjoining tracts, by the Indians, and by them kept out of possession for several years. This, in the opinion of the committee, accounts for the land not being occupied during the said time:—the committee are therefore of opinion, that the title of the petitioner ought to be confirmed, and accordingly report a bill.

